

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A thermal insulation box for an automatic ice-making machine, said thermal insulation box being provided with a front panel removably attached to a front part of a casing body having a forward opening; the front panel comprising a panel body for covering the forward opening of the casing body, the panel body being blow-molded [[by]] from a synthetic resin integrally with a front frame member for regulating inward dislocation of a right sidewall and a left sidewall of the casing body defining the forward opening; the panel body and the front frame member containing a foamed heat-insulating material in their hollow spaces, wherein

said front panel in substantially a rectangular shape is provided with a panel body that has on a top face thereof an engagement portion;

a top plate body of said top plate is provided, at a front of a lower face thereof, with an upwardly recessed front space that admits therein said engaging portion of said front panel and with a counterpart engaging portion that is formed on a front of said upwardly recessed front space so as to be disengageably engaged with said engaging portion; and

said front panel is attachable to and detachable from said casing body by engagement and disengagement of said engaging portion with said counterpart engaging portion of said top plate that covers an upward opening of said casing body.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The thermal insulation box for an automatic ice-making machine according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said [[the]] top plate that covers said [[covering the]] upward opening of said [[the]] casing body is [[a]] blow-molded [[by]] from a synthetic resin and contains in its hollow space a foamed heat-insulating material obtained by foam molding.